

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 EUR-25 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SSC-01 CPR-02 OMB-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /141 W

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R 221635Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1653

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI CU

SUBJECT: LIBERIA AND CUBA ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. LIBERIAN RADIO HAS BROADCAST STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT LIBERIA HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. STATEMENT NOTES AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED IN NY CITY 'OVER WEEK' AND WAS SIGNED BY LIBERIAN FONMIN DENNIS AND CUBAN PRIME MINSTER. NO DATE GIVEN FOR EXCHANGE OF MISSION OR REPRESENTATIVES.

2. SO AR WE HAVE HEARD NO LOCAL COMMENT ON DECISION WHICH WILL LIKELY RAISE SOME EYEBROWS. WE ASSUME DECISION WAS BASED ENTIRELY ON TOLBERT'S CONTINUING DESIRE GAIN SUPPORT IN THIRD WORLD; WE CAN THINK OF NO OTHER REASON AND DOUBT VERY MUCH THERE WILL BE EXCHANGE OF MISSIONS FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

3. NEVERTHELESS, THIS STRIKES US FAR MORE SIGNIFICANT MOVE THAN ANY TAKEN BY TOLBERT SO FAR IN FIELD OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. HIS STEPS AT NORMALIZATION WHICH EASTERN EUROPE, HIS NEGOTIATING WITH PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND EVEN NORTH KOREA; HIS INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH EAST ASIAN PROBLEMS ALL SEEM TO US TO HAVE SOME, ALBEIT ONLY SOME, RELEVANCE. BUT CUBA*?

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3. WE WILL ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN GRATER LOCAL FEELING FOR MOVE

AND WILL PROVIDE FURTHER COMMENT.

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Message Attributes

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